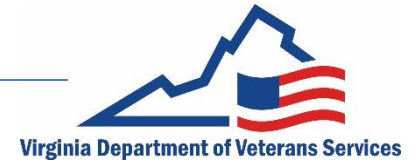




Virginia Department of Veterans Services



# Virginia Department of Veterans Services

## Overview for Senate Finance Committee Public Safety Subcommittee

Commissioner John L. Newby II  
January 17, 2018



## *VDVS is...*

- Innovative and always changing, with new and expanded programs to meet the needs of veterans of all periods of service
- A leader among state-level veterans agencies – VDVS programs have been/are being copied by other states (V3, MMAC, VVFS)
- Over 800 dedicated employees strong!
- An agency with a diverse portfolio but one unifying mission:

**Serving those who served!**



## *Virginia Veterans By The Numbers*

- 8<sup>th</sup> largest veterans population: 725,000+
- 4<sup>th</sup> largest as % of population: 1 in 11 Virginians is a veteran
- 14% are women: almost 104,000 – highest among all states
- 4<sup>th</sup> largest military retiree population: 156,000+
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest % of veterans in the labor force
- 4<sup>th</sup> highest in veteran working age population



## ***\$11B a Year in Direct Federal Spending***

- \$8.5 Billion paid directly to veterans in FFY16
  - \$3.2B in USDVA compensation and pension payments
  - \$5.25B in DoD retirement pay
- \$2.6 Billion in additional spending by USDVA, including:
  - \$1.6 B for medical care
  - \$901 M for education and training
  - \$130 M for general expenses (operating, construction, etc.)



## ***DVS FY17 Operational Highlights***

- **\$3.15 Billion** in federal compensation and disability payments (DVS filed **50,229** disability compensation claims filed on behalf of Virginia veterans and families).
- **6,205** veterans hired by V3-certified companies.
- **6,764** individual services delivered to veterans and families by the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) program.
- **145,630** patient days of care delivered at veterans care centers.
- **\$850 Million** in G.I. Bill benefits paid to Virginia veterans (FFY16).
- **1,750** burials at Virginia's three state veterans cemeteries.
- **63,990** visitors to the Virginia War Memorial.

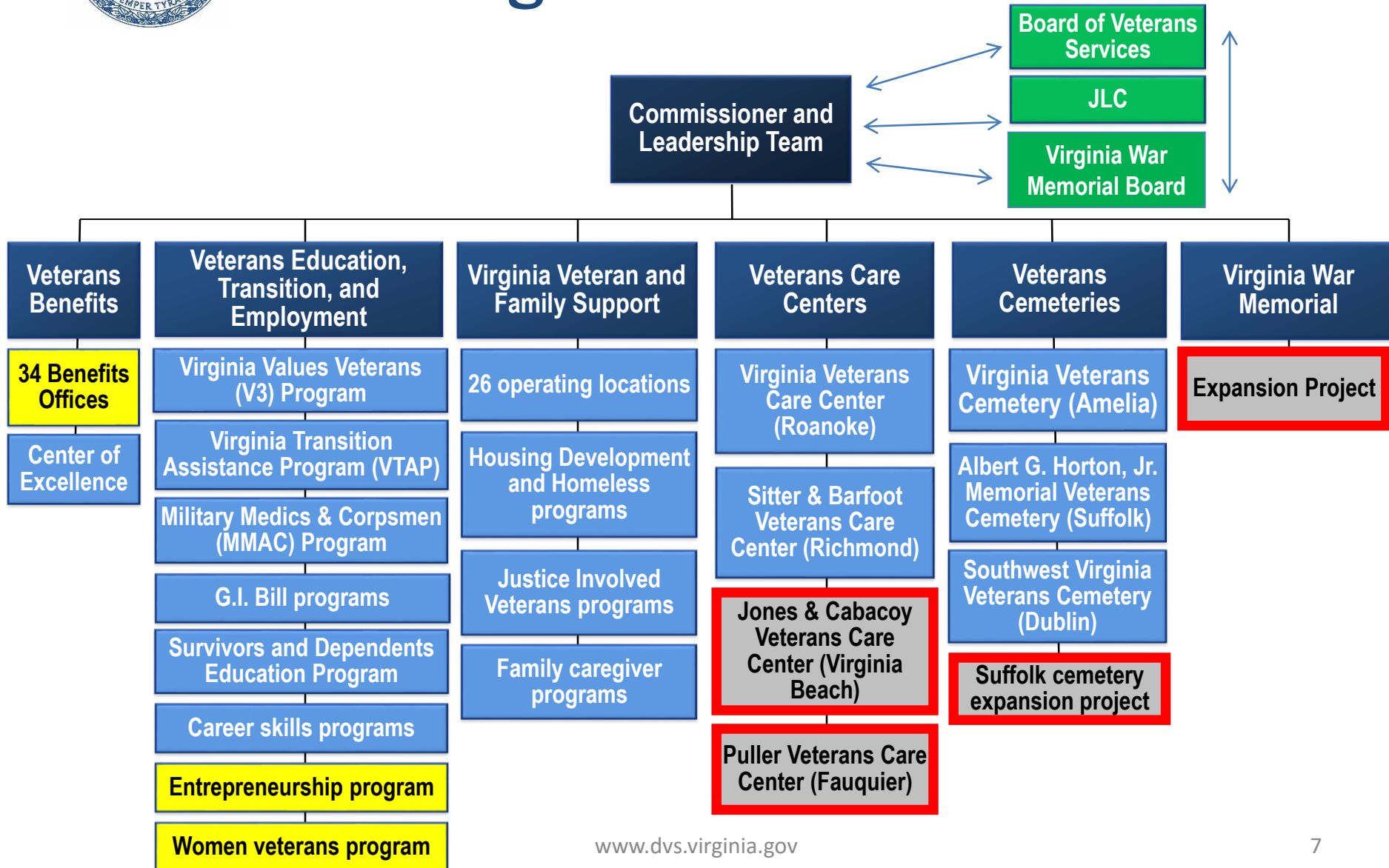


## *Introduced Budget*

- New veterans benefits offices in Virginia Beach (NAS Oceana) and Fairfax County (Ft. Belvoir)
- Veterans entrepreneurship program
- Women veterans program
- State veterans cemeteries – operations and maintenance



# DVS Organization – FY19





# DVS Locations – FY19

## Benefits Services Offices

- 1 Abingdon
- 2 Accomac
- 3 Big Stone Gap
- 4 Charlottesville
- 5 Chesapeake
- 6 Danville
- 7 Emporia (planned)
- 8 Fairfax
- 9 Fort Belvoir (planned)
- 10 Fredericksburg
- 11 Hampton
- 12 Hampton VA Medical Center
- 13 Henrico
- 14 Loudoun
- 15 Lynchburg
- 16 Manassas
- 17 McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
- 18 NAS Oceana (planned)
- 19 Norfolk
- 20 Pentagon
- 21 Petersburg
- 22 Portsmouth

- 23 Quantico
- 24 Richmond/Short Pump (planned)
- 25 Roanoke
- 26 Salem VA Medical Center
- 27 South Hill
- 28 Springfield
- 29 Staunton
- 30 Strasburg
- 31 Tazewell
- 32 Virginia Beach
- 33 Williamsburg
- 34 Wytheville

\* **VVFS:** Underlined offices indicate co-location of VVFS and Benefits Services offices.

## Care Centers

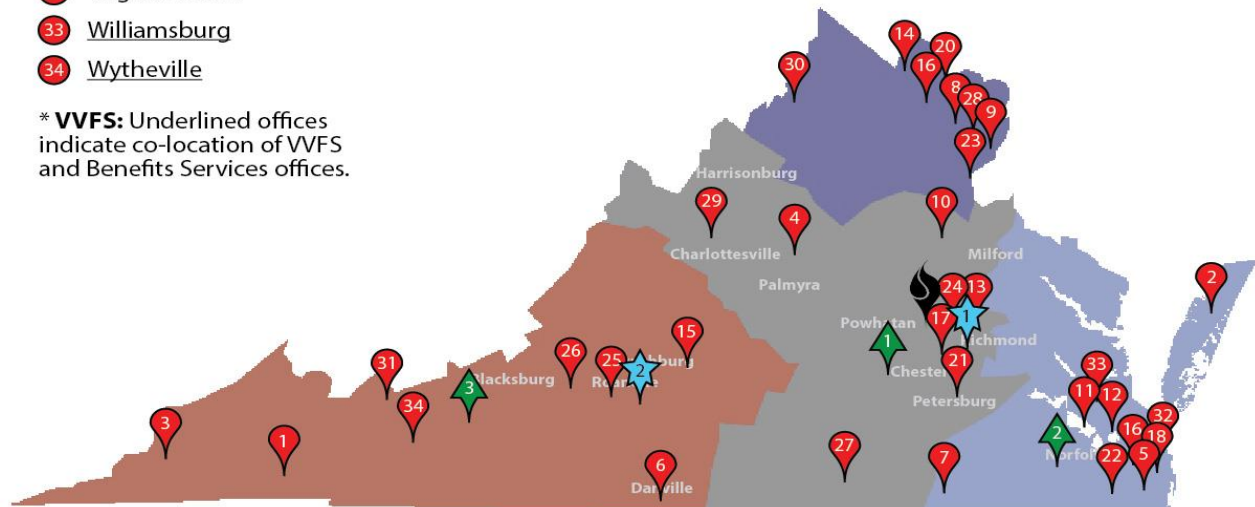
- ★ Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- ★ Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke

## Virginia Veteran and Family Support Regions

- Northern Region
- Eastern Region
- Central Region
- Western Region

## Cemeteries

- 1 Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
- 2 Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- 3 Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin
- ★ Virginia War Memorial Richmond







## Benefits Services

- **Provide Virginia's veterans and their family members with accurate, timely and ethical education and assistance in obtaining their federal and state veterans benefits**
- 50,000+ claims filed in FY17 (Initial, Re-Opened, Notice of Disagreement, Appeals, Dependency)
  - Service-connected Disability Compensation Claims (evidence-based)
  - Veteran Pension Claims (need-based; \$13K max)
  - Aid and Attendance Claims (need-based; \$22K-25K max)
  - Survivor Benefit Claims (non-need-based)
  - Survivor Pension Claims (need-based; \$8K)
- 200,000+ client contacts in FY17
  - VA Health Care Eligibility
  - Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Guarantees
  - Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Applications
  - Application for Education Benefits
  - Outreach into Local Communities – Itinerary Visits
  - Referrals to Local, State, and Federal Social Services
  - Assistance to Veterans Service Organizations





## *Education, Transition, and Employment*

- **Capitalize on veteran talent pool:** Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program helps 1,000+ Virginia employers recruit, hire, and retain skilled veteran employees. Over 31,000 hires to date!
- **Create seamless transition from military to veteran status:** Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) helps veterans and family members connect to jobs, education, and services. Over 22,000 served last year



- **Put veterans on fast track to Healthcare Careers:** Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program connects veterans to jobs at six partner health systems – 56 hires to date, with almost 200 in pipeline

- **Maximize education and training opportunities:** DVS responsible for approving education and training programs for G.I. Bill use: 50,000+ students @ 1,000 approved programs last year





## Virginia Veteran and Family Support



- **Fill critical gap in care coordination**: in partnership with veterans and family members, VVFS resource specialists perform needs assessments and develop coordinated resources plans
- **Connect veterans and families to behavioral, rehabilitative, and supportive services** offered by federal, state, local, and private service providers
- **Deliver focused services**: peer support, family workshops and retreats, caregiver support
- **Ensure that homelessness among veterans is rare, brief, and non re-occurring**: Virginia was 1<sup>st</sup> state in the nation to functionally end veteran homelessness (3,600+ housed in last three years)
- **Serve Justice Involved Veterans**: VVFS provides crisis intervention training for law enforcement agencies; works with courts on veterans dockets; and partners with VADOC, prisons, and jails on re-entry programs







# Veterans Care Centers

- **Provide skilled nursing, Alzheimer's/memory, and short-term rehabilitative care to Virginia veterans**
- In-patient, residential care facilities
- Virginia Veterans Care Center (Roanoke): 240 beds
- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond): 200 beds
- Two new veterans care centers (128-beds each) under construction
  - Puller Veterans Care Center (Vint Hill, Fauquier County)
  - Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (Virginia Beach)
  - Target opening: Early 2020





## Veterans Cemeteries

- **Provide a final resting place for our veterans and their families** in a setting of honor, dignity, respect, and remembrance at state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk
- **Operate and maintain cemeteries as national shrines**: same operating procedures and eligibility requirements as national cemeteries like Quantico and Culpeper (veterans, spouses, and some children are eligible)



- Three burial options: in-ground full casket, above-ground cremated, in-ground cremated
- 1,750 interments last year (almost 17,000 to date)
- Developed in phases: \$10M federal grant in 2017 for Suffolk Phase 3 expansion (design underway)
- DVS has applied for \$4M federal grant for Amelia Phase 2 expansion (likely award 2019)





## Virginia War Memorial



- **Honor patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation in time of war:** inscribed in the Shrine of Memory are the names of the nearly 12,000 Virginians killed in action from WWII to the present
- **Honor all of Virginia's veterans, preserve their history, educate the public, and inspire patriotism in all Virginians:** pass their extraordinary stories of sacrifice forward to future generations through many outreach and on-site educational programs

- Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center: Smithsonian-quality exhibits and award-winning educational programs
- 64,000 visitors in FY17
- 28,000 square foot addition under construction (target completion Summer 2019): expand the Shrine of Memory, new education and exhibit space





# Questions?



## Stay in touch with DVS!

<http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/>

*Go online to subscribe to DVS eNews! You will receive email announcements about services, events, benefits, and other opportunities of interest to the veterans' community.*

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